

St Mary's Newsletter

Spring Term – Friday 6th October 2023

Telephone 01799 523384

Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk

Attendance Weekly 96.1%

Attendance Year 96.3%



Our motto: Let Your Light Shine... as You Grow Matthew 5: 15-16

Friendship

Trust

Truthfulness

Compassion

Perseverance

Respect

Dear parents, carers and friends of the school,

The Tesco Stronger Starts Campaign.

A quick reminder that the school has been successful in applying to the **Tesco Stronger Starts Campaign** and our project has already been put forward to a customer vote in two local Saffron Walden Tesco stores, which started during the first week of October 2023 and will continue until mid-January 2024.



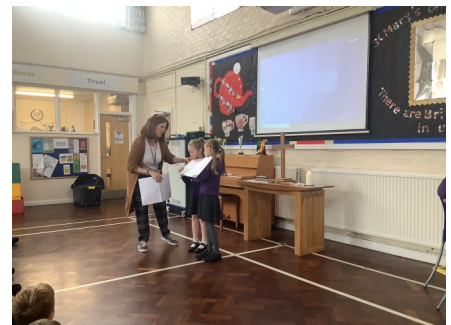
As you will be aware, our school is currently continuing to raise funds for the creation of a new dedicated school library and some other vital learning spaces for all of our pupils. However, our fundraising project is facing stiff competition in these stores, with a number of other local fundraising efforts vying for the top spots. The project with the highest number of votes across our region will receive £1,500, the second placed project will receive £1,000, and the third placed project £500. Therefore, if we finish in first position, we will receive £1500, if we finish in second, we will receive £1000 and if we finish in third, we will receive £500.

I have been reliably informed by one of our parents (thank you Mr Walker!) that the school is currently sitting in 3rd position. So this is a plea (not that I am remotely competitive) to ask as many of our parents, carers and friends of the school to use their special token to vote for our project when you spend money in a local Tesco store, so we can aim to try an secure second or even first place by the end of the voting period.

To check the location of any of the above stores, please go to the Tesco website here: <http://www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk> Please feel free to share this list of stores amongst your family, friends and neighbours.

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to these pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1 who have received these special Stars of the Week Achievement certificates. Well done to Alfie and Phoebe from Butterfly Class and Levi and Sophia from Ladybird Class (for settling into St Mary's school life so brilliantly) and Darcey and Freddie from Caterpillar Class for their super efforts in class. Please take a look at these lovely photos of the children receiving their certificates in assembly this week.



New Governor Vacancy:

Sadly, due to new work commitments, our fantastic Curriculum Committee Chairperson and one of our Parent Governors, Libby Coldwell, will be leaving the school's Governing Board this term. I would like to thank Libby for all of her enthusiasm, excellent contributions and engagement with the Governing Board and the school over the last year, including during our recent Ofsted Inspection Visit.

Therefore, St Mary's is now looking to recruit a new parent or carer for a position on our Governing Board. Governors fulfil a vital role in the strategic leadership of the school and are closely involved in a number of key areas, which include the curriculum, finance, safeguarding and personnel matters, in addition to premises management. Currently, Governors also attend two Full Governing Board meetings each term, two annual Governor Days, as well as a number of Committee meetings - in addition to monitoring meetings/visits, linked to their area/s of responsibility.

If you are interested in taking up this important position on the governing board, we would ask that you email the school **by 12 noon on Wednesday 1st November**, on the school's info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk email address to register your interest. We would particularly like to hear from any parents or carers with a curriculum, finance or HR background; however, we would welcome interest in this position from any candidates with other areas of experience. If the school has more than one candidate who would like to take up this role, then the school will need to carry out a Parent/Carers Governor Election - which would involve the candidate producing a short description of themselves, including some simple personal information and also, most importantly, why they would like to take on the role of a Parent/Carer Governor at St Mary's. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email the school on info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk or email John Westnedge, the chair of Governors on chairofgovernors@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk and we would be delighted to answer any questions that you may have.



Site Manager

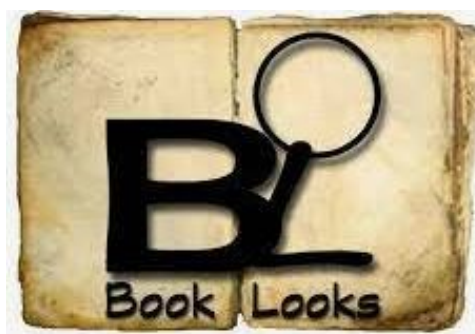
Our lovely site manager, John Tait will be retiring at the end of October which will leave an opening for someone to join our school team. You can apply using the link from our website <https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/current-vacancies/>

Book Look/Sharing Pupils Work: 3rd November

The upcoming Parents & Carers Consultations after the half term break on the 7th, 8th (for Reception pupils only) and 9th of November will be focussed on giving parents/carers and their new class teacher the opportunity to talk about how each pupil is settling into their new class, as well as class teachers having the opportunity to share a range of academic and social targets.

A few years ago we trialled and then formally implemented a new Book Look/Sharing Pupils Work event. In these Book Looks, parents and carers have a separate opportunity to come into school to have a longer look at their children's work in advance of these meetings—so that you can discuss some of your pupil's work—if you wish to do so. These sessions will be a brilliant opportunity for children to share work and then if you have any questions these can be discussed with the class teacher at the upcoming Parents/Carers Consultations sessions a week later.

The first Book Look of this academic year will therefore take place **on Friday 3rd November**. The first on that day will be between **8.30am and 9.00am** and the second will be between **3.15pm and 4.00pm**. Keep an eye out in your child's book bag in the next few week's for the special invitations from your child.



Better Health

Better Health - Healthier Families is the new 'home for 'Change4life'. Its aim is to help families eat well and move more. It provides tips, health apps to track and monitor your progress and a wide range of information and support. Better Health – Healthier families can help you to make small, practical changes that fit in with your daily life.



There are lots of helpful tips on the website including Healthier food swaps, healthy snacks, sugar calculator and pack lunchbox inspirations. For more information visit: www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/

I hope you have a great weekend and enjoy the lovely weather.

Kind regards.

Mr C. D. Jarman

Headteacher of St Mary's Church of England Primary school, Saffron Walden



Online Parent Groups



Supporting Teenagers Emotional Wellbeing

Suitable for parents of children aged 12-19 years. This course is run over 3 weeks, with an optional fourth session. This will look at ways to help your teenager manage their emotional wellbeing.

Monday 6th November 2023
Monday 13th November 2023
Monday 20th November 2023
Monday 27th November 2023 (optional)

5:30-7pm via Zoom

Challenging Behaviour (at home)

Suitable for parents of children aged 4-11 years. This course is run over 6 weeks. This will focus on an issue you are experiencing with your child and will work on strategies and ways to help deal with the issue/behaviour.

Tuesday 7th November 2023
Tuesday 14th November 2023
Tuesday 21st November 2023
Tuesday 28th November 2023
Tuesday 5th December 2023
Tuesday 12th December 2023

7-8:30pm via Zoom



Helping your Child Manage their Fears and Worries

Suitable for parents of children aged 4-11 years. This course is run over 4 weeks. This will help parents work on a focussed issue they are experiencing with their child and work out strategies to help.

Thursday 9th November 2023
Thursday 16th November 2023
Thursday 23rd November 2023
Thursday 30th November 2023

1-2:30pm via Zoom

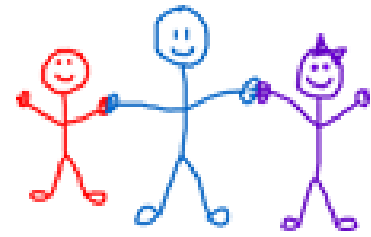
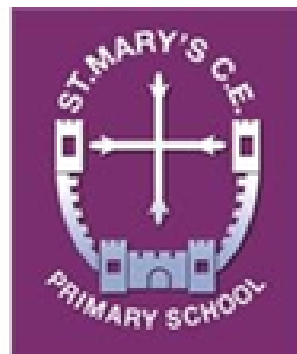
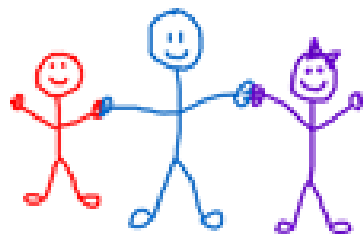


Individual and Sibling photographs (with Kittle):

Next week (**on Thursday 12th October**) the Kittle photographers will be visiting St Mary's to take the annual individual and sibling photos.

Don't forget to make sure that your child is dressed in their **extra smartly in their correct school uniform** on that day.

Afterwards your child will be coming home with a photocard from Kittle Photography. Last year Kittle advised that the photos usually take a week to be loaded on to their website so have a check online at the end of the following week. Further information to follow!



St. Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School
Castle Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1BQ

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS 15th JANUARY 2024

If you have children starting school in September 2024
please come and join us for our

OPEN MORNING

Come and visit our wonderful school where you will have the opportunity to
meet our staff and pupils and see our learning and teaching in action

Thursday 16th and Monday 20th November 2023

9.30am – 11.00am

Bookings can be made online via the school website
(<https://www.stmaryssw.org.uk/admission-arrangements/>)

*We aspire for our pupils to be the best they can be, in an inclusive Christian
learning environment.*

Tel: 01799 523384

Email: info@st-maryscofe.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryssw.org.uk



BOOK ONTO A FREE HALF TERM CLUB WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE!

Eligible children and young people are invited to book onto **FREE**, fun-filled activity clubs who are run by a network of locally, trusted organisations across Essex, brought to you by Active Essex on behalf of Essex County Council!

IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Essex ActivAte offer club spaces to primary and secondary school aged children (4-16 years), who are eligible for benefit based free school meals, or from 'low-income' working families, as well as children who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation.

WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?

Clubs will run in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford! Due to half term programmes being solely funded by Essex County Council, unfortunately there will not be any clubs running in Thurrock.

WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?

Clubs provide a range of different physical, enrichment and food activities to support children's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a delicious, nutritious meal!

HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

To book your child/ren onto one of our half term clubs, you will not receive a Holiday Activities voucher from your school, and you will need to book on through the Essex ActivAte website. Simply select your area, find what clubs are available and book your child on through the link provided. Depending on the club, you may need to book through our website, or contact them directly.

[Find out more about October half term clubs and book on here.](#)





We are looking for new member of the Dolce family to work with us in the school kitchen

- Kitchen assistant 20 hours
- Kitchen assistant 10 HOurs
 - Cook 27.5 hours

Full training including safeguarding training and uniform will be provided

If you are interested please contact me at tara.cooper-mynott@dolce.co.uk

All offers are made subject to an enhanced DBS check and applicant's eligibility to work in the UK

Please can we ask parents and carers to be very mindful when sending children into school with a snack and/or a lunch.

We have a strict policy of being a nut free school. **Please make sure you do not send in any food that contains nuts, may contain nuts or traces of any nuts.**

Please check carefully the packing for foods such as cereal bars, dried fruit snacks and pasta made with pesto sauce etc.

If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

**NUT FREE
ZONE**





Diary Dates



Key Dates for the Autumn Term 2023:

Thursday 5th October	-	Census Day & special Space Menu
Thursday 12th October	-	Kittle Photographic - Individual and Sibling photos
Wednesday 18th October	-	EYFS/KS1 Teddy Bear Run
23rd—27th October	-	HALF TERM BREAK
W/C Monday 30th October	-	One Plan Meetings held this week
Tuesday 31st October	-	Light Day—children can wear bright/light clothes
Friday 3rd November	-	Book Looks/Share our Work sessions (8.30am to 9am & 3.15pm to 4pm)
Tuesday 7th November	-	Parent Consultations—Years R—Year 6
Wednesday 8th November	-	Parent Consultations—Reception Only
Thursday 9th November	-	Parent Consultations—Years 1—Year 6
Friday 10th November	-	Remembrance Day assembly/service at St Mary's at 11am
Monday 13th - Friday 17th November	-	Make a Noise About Bullying (Anti-Bullying Week)
Wednesday 15th November	-	Governors Day
Thursday 16th November	-	Reception 2024 Open Morning (9.30—11.00)
Monday 20th November	-	Reception 2024 Open Morning (9.30—11.00)
Thursday 23rd November	-	Flu vaccines (delivered by NHS Immunisation Team)
Saturday 2nd December	-	Spirit of Christmas Choir Performance (St Mary's Church) at 1.30pm
Wednesday 6th December	-	PTA Panto
Friday 8th December	-	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8th December	-	Key Stage 2 Christmas Disco
Tuesday 12th December	-	EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance in St Mary's Church at 6pm
Tuesday 19th December	-	Carol Service at St Mary's Church (time TBC) Parents/Carers Invited
Wednesday 20th December	-	1.30pm—school breaks up for the Christmas holiday
21st December—5th January	-	Christmas holiday closure period
Monday 8th January	-	Pupils return to school for the Spring term

* *new or amended items added are in blue*

